

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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SIXPENCE

HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN'S election to the presidency of the League Assembly will have pleased all his numerous admirers and friends in all parts of the world. Not that they will necessarily regard this Geneva complement as in any way enhancing His Highness' prestige and reputation. Geneva's own fame at the moment stands so low that any honours it may have to confer will hardly compare with the honour it has itself received in obtaining the Aga Khan as the successor to the former "Red" President of the League Assembly. If the Assembly's future proceedings should not be marked by a greater degree of practical good sense than it has sometimes displayed in the past, that will not be the fault of its genial and highly capable President. Besides being a fine sportsman who has made a great reputation for himself on the British turf and who is the first Oriental to become a member of the Jockey Club, the Aga Khan has proved himself to be possessed of exceptional gifts as a wise and sagacious counsellor. As spiritual head of an important Indian Mohamedan sect he has exerted a beneficent influence on Mohamedan opinion at times when the passions of his co-religionists were running high. He has represented India at Empire and Round Table Conferences and he has been four times a prominent member of an Indian delegation to the League. And quite recently he performed good, if unostentatious, service to the Empire by his tour in East Africa.

MR. TE WATER, HIGH COMMISSIONER for the Union of South Africa, while on holiday in Canada, has been incautious enough to give his views on a decidedly controversial matter to a Press interviewer. True, we learn from a subsequent explanation, he never intended those views to be regarded as anything more than those of a private traveller on holiday. He was not speaking, he has explained, in an "official way." And what he actually said was quite different from what he was reported to have said. "I said," so runs his explanation, "that South Africa would be ready to participate round a conference table to examine in a spirit of reason and moderation the point of view of Germany on this colonial issue and other problems. This is not the official view of South Africa; it is my personal view." Asked if he meant that South Africa would be willing to discuss giving up South-West Africa, Mr. te Water replied with an emphatic "No." "That," he said, "is quite a different proposition. I should not be such a fool as to say a thing like that. It is a very different matter." It may seem a little curious that Mr. te Water should expect Press interviewers to differentiate between the views he held in his private capacity and those he would have to put forward as the official repre-

sentative of the South African Government; and even more curious perhaps that he should express opinions on a delicate subject, if not directly contrary to what he knew to be "the official view of South Africa," at anyrate anticipatory of it. But this, after all, is a matter between the Union Government and himself and one can only wonder what the developments of this purely "private" interview are likely to be.

PALESTINE IS TO be inflicted with yet another Commission, that inevitable device of the politician when he is thoroughly tired of the job of tackling a problem which proves to be peculiarly thorny. Of course, in this case the British Government can say that the "solution" has been arrived at; it is merely a case of settling the details such as the "proper boundaries" of the two proposed new States and their respective financial prospects. Frankly, we do not envy the new Commission's task. They may or may not get "representative" Jews and Arabs to confer with them and make suggestions about boundaries and finance. What seems fairly obvious is that there is no guarantee at all that the suggestions made by the representatives of one side will coincide with the proposals put forward by the representatives of the other and that the results of all this conferring will in the end appeal to the great majority in either the Arab or Jewish communities. Neither Jew nor Arab really wants Partition. The ambitions of both communities have long been crystal clear. They amount in effect to the securing of political supremacy in a country which each community feels it has a right to claim as its own "National Home." Perhaps after the new Commission has succeeded, with the very best intentions, in stirring up the pot of trouble once more to boiling point, the conclusion will at last be forced upon Geneva and Whitehall idealists that the only hope for Palestine peace is incorporation of this unrestful land in the British Empire as a colony. If so, the Commission will have justified itself in its failure to do anything but produce by roundabout methods the much needed remedy of commonsense.

PORTUGAL OUR OLDEST ALLY has not always received, since the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, a square deal from certain sections of the British Press and accordingly one welcomes the appreciative tribute which *The Times* and its Lisbon correspondent have just paid to the achievements of the Salazar régime. From 1910 to 1926, that correspondent records, Portugal "suffered" some 18 revolutions and 40 or more Governments; its finances were in a state suggesting imminent bankruptcy, its administration paralysed by incessant disorder and its people

weighed down by "apathetic despair." The outlook is very different to-day. Since Dr. Salazar took charge of the country and its administration there have been "an unbroken series of surpluses"; social and economic conditions have been vastly improved; order has given place to chaos; and if there are still subversive elements in the State they are given no chance of getting to work. Portugal, in short, is enjoying an era of greater prosperity and more stable administration than it has probably ever known for a very long period back in its history.

DR. STREETER'S tragic death in an air disaster and that of Mrs. Streeter (writes a correspondent) are in more than a conventional sense a loss both to Oxford and to British scholarship. He was a learned theologian and a humanist—in the best sense of the latter word—and the combination is less usual than it used to be a generation or two ago. In his early days at Pembroke, where I remember him best, he was popular, without any effort towards popularity, with dons and with undergraduates—the juniors welcoming his humanism and the seniors his scholarship as well. In latter years his learning broadened and developed without lessening in the least the human touch and an appreciated contact with young people. Although his main work may have been done, he never seemed to grow old, and many will feel with A. T. Barton, his colleague at Pembroke and perhaps the greatest Virgilian of his time, *si fata aspera rumpas!*

FOR OVER 40 YEARS the National Trust has done excellent work in arousing public opinion to understand the extent of our goodly heritage, particularly in matters of architecture, natural beauty and the visible evidence of our long history. The current issue of its official *News* (published at the offices, 7, Buckingham Palace Gardens, London, S.W.1), gives abundant proof that the effort is being carried on with steadily increasing energy and success. The Trust has many strings to its bow, and some useful work *de propaganda fide* is being done with postcards as before, and this year with a Christmas Calendar, to be obtained from Messrs. Burrow, of 122, Strand, W.C.2, for half a crown. There have been suggestions that the Trust is inclined to buy up open spaces of great beauty, but never likely to be built over or spoilt. But you never can tell, especially in these days when coal-fields have spread to Kent and oil may be struck any day in Sussex or elsewhere. What the Society wants is more members in addition to the large number already enrolled. The annual subscription is only ten shillings, and we hope that many of our readers who can spare this modest sum will write to the Secretary at the address given above.

IN SPITE OF THE RAGE for bridge and the temporary re-emergence of mah-jong, chess, perhaps the oldest of all indoor games, has enjoyed a notable revival in recent years. A leading part in that revival has been played by Edward Tinsley, who died suddenly in the course of his duties. As correspondents of *The Times*, the Tinsley family

had a unique position in their specialist world: to them chess was almost a hereditary craft in the oriental sense. To Tinsley, chess was not only his livelihood, but the passion of his life. His recreations were sea-fishing and in later years crosswords—both occupations which have this in common with the mysteries of chess—an almost infinite need for patience and for concentration of mind.

"**T**HE FEUD," by Mr. David Whitelaw at the Cambridge Theatre provides a very pleasant evening's entertainment. It makes no great demand on the intellect and stirs no deep emotions, but the interest of the audience is held and the play moves quickly to its climax which gives Mr. Edmund Willard as the principal villain, opportunity for a fine piece of acting. At the opening the story seemed a little confused, and the actors on the first night had not mastered the acoustics of the theatre. Mr. Groves would have been more effective if the cigar which he chewed perpetually in American fashion had not too often muffled his voice. Miss Joan Lawson was charming as a young lady with a secret and Miss Merle Tottenham made a character sketch of the film-struck servant. Mr. Ballard Berkeley played the part of a journalist with gusto and skill.

IF you liked *The Mutiny On The Bounty*, you will probably like *Souls At Sea*, which is now running at the Plaza; it is not so good a picture as its predecessor but, like it, deals with life at sea in the raw, and also, like it, is based not very securely on fact. In 1841 the William Brown went down in mid-Atlantic and, the ship carrying insufficient boats to accommodate everyone, the first mate held a kind of trial and decided who should be saved or who should die. At Philadelphia, sometime later, he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. Those are the facts and out of them has been built a smooth running story of the sea and the slave trade in which we find Gary Cooper playing a lone hand against the traders, until he is "rumbled" by the British Secret Service and secretly employed by them. Taking a passage on the William Brown, he finds himself at once face to face with the villain, played by Henry Wilcoxon, and in love with the villain's sister, played by Frances Dee. When the ship catches fire, in a rather incredible fashion, he decides who is to live, needless to say Frances Dee is one of them, and who is to die; but the scales here have been weighted in his favour. The shipwreck scenes are magnificently photographed and the dialogue and acting, especially of George Raft as a reformed slave trader, are good throughout.

IN THE CITY there has been very little business and the general atmosphere of "wait and see" continues. In the United States there has been only a partial recovery from the recent break which was apparently due to a war-scare difficult to understand. Political uncertainty is the worst enemy of financial stability, but there has been little if any indiscriminate selling. At the moment the success, so far, of "the piracy conference" has brightened the sky, and British Government securities and sound industrials remain stationary.

Leading Articles

BRITAIN AND THE SEAS

AT the time of writing it seems possible to acclaim the issue of the Nyon Conference as something approaching a victory, a negative victory indeed, but at least an answer to the cry that has been echoing round Europe: "England is no longer a great Power." In the past there would have been no Conference. Great Britain would have suppressed piracy on any sea without consultation with anyone, just because it was a habit and necessity to keep the high seas open for our ships. The rest of the world would have thanked us for an effort which protected people of good will on all their lawful occasions. It is interesting to note how even our modern press cannot obliterate from the mind of the public the notion of its vital interests. Our Press Lords, with their comic protestations of patriotism and their half-witted appeals for circulation, have delightfully little influence on their readers. Somehow a British common-sense remains and suddenly every British citizen from Socialist to Tory Die-Hard is galvanised into an instinct of self-defence which implies offence when the liberty of the seas is threatened. All our pacifists—or nearly all—who fought so hard to disarm us are now crying to high Heaven that piracy by unidentified submarines must be suppressed at once. Heaven knows that they did their best to deprive us of any means of suppressing anything by sea or land, but at least they ought to receive a patriotic mark or two for their pacifist pugnacity.

Newspapers can play fast and loose with their readers, hide things that are important and parade the infinitely little. They can boost their owners and their owners' feeble notions, until the staff's invention perishes. Yet none of them can ever get down to destroy the foundation of the national character. Britons born far from the sea possess the same inspiration as those "that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters." Every inhabitant of these islands realises that his very existence depends upon the sea, and when foreigners amuse themselves by twisting the British Lion's tail they are wise not to interfere with that ocean freedom which is our very life. We can thank God that we have armed in time—or nearly in time—and that when we cry out against piracy in this or the other sea, we have accepted that personal sacrifice which alone can provide for the defence of the Right in this spatial and temporal world. There are those who would have us devote all our strength to the defence of that strange delusion which is called in politics the Left, but, as Chesterton pointed out long ago, left hand and right hand are directions that are as unchangeable as right and wrong, and even the cleverest quibbler cannot convert the left into the right.

The great thing about Nyon is that a decision has been taken speedily and definitely. England has spoken. Once again her voice is to be heard in the Councils of Europe as a Great Power. Behind that voice is massed the whole of public

opinion. It is only sad that so many who have worked so hard to make that voice inoperative are to-day patting themselves on the back, because they are a part of the voice which imposes itself on Europe. They were the folk who nearly ruined the whole affair and who perhaps have spoilt its real significance by their funny little philosophies, their "ideologies," which really belong to the pathology of neurosis. "I want peace," they cry, "therefore there must be peace," never realising for a moment that no man ever realises his desire except by self-sacrifice.

Long ago the whole of the Versailles Conference was wrecked by a question of procedure. It would have been so easy and so complimentary to have consigned President Wilson to a Conference of heads of States, which would have confirmed the resolutions of their representatives. As it was, the man who knew least about the problem that had to be solved was given an absurd prominence in the discussion of matters that were to him as abstruse as the theory of relativity, and it can only have been a sense of irony on the part of Fate, which underlined that absurdity by making the nation he represented turn down all the nonsense for which he had made it responsible. Versailles proved that the composition of a Conference is vastly important. That is a lesson which still seems lost on us. Piracy in the Mediterranean concerns the Mediterranean Powers. A conference on such piracy should surely be confined to the Powers in question. Was there any reason to invite Germany? None, so far as the layman can see. Was there any reason to invite Russia? None whatsoever. Germany's mercantile trade might give her a claim, but an invitation to Russia which resulted in an admission that no Russian ships were available was simply asking for trouble. Russia to-day has only one policy. Attempts at establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat, which in Russia means the dictatorship of Stalin, have not been successful in other countries. There is something wrong with the Marxian Doctrine. Neither the writer of this article nor the man who is roofing his house nor the man who is selling papers in the street is going to lose everything that makes his life for the sake of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Universal revolution is at a discount. Those who have been preaching it for years past know that they have failed. All their efforts have led, as Plato told them long ago, to a most unpleasant despotism. Since they cannot admit failure, their only hope is to sow dissension and discord among all those nations which have not been led astray by half-baked theory.

The invitation to Nyon gave Russia a chance. Russian diplomacy is a little clumsy, but it is often effective. One thing is vital: this country and Italy must not be on friendly terms. The peace of Europe and our prosperity depend on the relations between this country and Italy. So Russia at once sent an insulting Note to Italy accusing her of piracy. All our Socialists were terribly upset when Germany demanded retribution for the bombing of a warship, and took it. "Why," they asked, "did not Germany make quite sure who had bombed and killed her sailors? International investigation was necessary." With one

voice they cried out how right Russia was to accuse Italy of piracy, though there was not one iota of evidence that any Italian submarine had been concerned in any outrage.

One can only hope that the mistake of inviting Russia to the Nyon Conference will now be overcome. It is satisfactory to know that the boasted Red Fleet is disinclined to come out of territorial waters. Its weakness was shown long ago by the Non-Intervention Committee when Russia had to admit that she was not capable of undertaking patrol work. Probably all seamen will be thankful that they will not have to take the risk of being protected by Russian warships. In the circumstances, it still seems possible that an arrangement may be found, which will enable Italy to play her part as a Great Power in the suppression of piracy in the Mediterranean and in any other seas in which it may occur.

INDIAN FEDERATION

IT was perhaps more than a little ominous that the Congress politicians should have ostentatiously absented themselves from the joint session of the Central Legislature at Simla on the occasion of the delivery of an important address by Lord Linlithgow.

Obviously this abstention was intended to indicate that Congress, while consenting to form Ministries under the new constitution in the six provinces where it possessed majorities, had no intention of co-operating with British authority any further than suited its own plans.

And this marked demonstration of Congress' non-co-operative mood was no doubt deliberately calculated to spoil the effect of any optimistic forecasts the Viceroy might be tempted, with his well known conciliatory temperament, to indulge in for the pleasure and edification of his legislative and official audience and the Indian public at large. Another Viceroy, subjected to such blatant discourtesy by politicians to whom he had been unfailingly courteous and conciliatory, might have thought that his own dignity required certain caustic modifications of the speech he had prepared. But this is not Lord Linlithgow's way. "*Fortiter in re*" perhaps, but always "*Suaviter in modo*." The absentees should not be chided. Rather they should be praised and the last word should be left with the Indian public.

The event seems to have justified Lord Linlithgow's equable temper, for *The Times*' Simla correspondent records:—"The absence of the Congress Party from the Assembly during the delivery of the speech has received singularly little attention, chiefly because the party's decision is not widely approved, even in Congress circles. The decision not to attend clearly runs counter to very definite public opinion, and is another evidence of the manner in which the party leaders flout the wishes of their followers."

Nor need we doubt the sincerity of Lord Linlithgow's optimistic outlook. He may know how to keep his temper, but this does not mean that his restraint is a purely diplomatic gesture. As the former President of the Joint Parliamentary Committee he is convinced that the Government

of India Act, for all its complexities, is not only workable, but will prove to be of real benefit to India and its political aspirations. He has genuine faith in this remarkable experiment in constitution-making by the West for the three hundred and sixty millions, of varied race and creed, that constitute the population of our Indian Empire. And his one anxiety is to see that both parts of the experiment are carried into operation while he is still there to help in its success. Provincial autonomy has now been inaugurated in every Indian province. There were difficulties, of course, but they were surmounted—chiefly owing, it must be acknowledged, to Lord Linlithgow's firmness and tact. Whether one shares or not in his optimism, one can fully understand how he should come to survey the results of his past labours and find them good.

"One of the great turning-points in our political history," he said, "has now been successfully negotiated and we have a future that in my judgment is full of promise. . . . It is in this field of common aspirations and common endeavour that we see exemplified the first fruits of that new relationship which it is the prime purpose of the Constitution to establish and foster."

After this peroration Lord Linlithgow turned to what was really uppermost in his mind—the next stage in the constitutional experiment, the installation of the federal scheme. Till Federation is in being, he pointed out, there could be no fiscal and economic uniformity for India as a whole, and the commercial and industrial development of the country would continue to be seriously hampered. And "it goes without saying that from the standpoint of British India, as well as the Indian States, a substantial advantage is likely to result from the establishment of a system in which tariff policies which affect every part of India should no longer fall to be constructed by a central Government in whose counsels, for historical, constitutional reasons, wide areas of India at the moment enjoy no direct representation."

The arguments that Lord Linlithgow advanced in favour of Federation may be sound enough so far as they go, but it is to be feared that they will not entirely serve to win over those who are opposed to the kind of Federation visualised by the Government of India Act. Mr. Gandhi and the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and their followers might be agreeable to a form of Federation that left the Indian Princes more at their mercy than they imagine they will be under the British Parliament's scheme. The Indian Princes, on the other hand, are by no means happy even yet over the conditions under which they are invited to federate with British India. How they will contemplate "the complete and final picture" which Lord Linlithgow proposes to present to them remains to be seen. What is certain is that Lord Linlithgow will have many grave obstacles to surmount before he can set about carrying through the Federation plan. And yet, to judge by his announcement that the present life of the Assembly will end in October, 1938, it looks as if he expects the coming of Federation within a little more than a year's time—to be announced formally perhaps in a Royal Durbar? If so, one can only admire his sturdy optimism.

GERMAN POLICE HEADQUARTERS

THERE is a proverb which assigns the kingdom of the sea to the English, the kingdom of the land to the French, and the kingdom of the clouds to the Germans, and whatever truth there may be in this saying—and there is perhaps a good deal—it does not seem very aptly to apply to the methods of criminal investigation used in Germany.

As with other departments, police headquarters are organised down to the last detail. When any crime of importance is committed, corps of experts go to the scene of it. There is always a highly skilled photographer with his assistants, a fingerprint and identification expert, with chemists, physicists and other scientific men if their services are required. Expertise is never used in Germany as a last resort. The experts take charge of the case from the very beginning, and see the investigation through from first to last.

It would be an exaggeration to suggest that the inside of a German police headquarters was one vast laboratory, but it is true that any clue amenable to scientific examination is examined in that way.

As a typical example, we can consider the kind of work that is done at such a centre as Frankfurt. Not only are technical and scientific methods actually applied to all criminal inquiries, but laboratory research is always being carried on. Researches are carried out on the development of fingerprints with chemical re-agents, the analysis of what are known as "occupational dusts," dusts found in the ears, noses, and clothing of individuals which give a key to their occupation; the identification of stains and traces by micro-chemical tests and of textiles and vegetable debris. These investigations which begin in the laboratory are applied to actual cases in the field. Here is an unusual example of a micro-chemical test applied to a fingerprint. A theft of some platinum took place from a laboratory. Fingerprints upon it could not be developed when it was recovered, but traces of a particular salt of copper were identified showing that it must have been handled by an employee who was the only one who had been handling this salt at the time when the theft was committed.

The identification of dust and other traces has been systematically applied in Germany with striking results. As long ago as 1904 two minute strands of red and blue silk found on the throat of an old woman who had been strangled in the Schelmenkopf forest were identified and matched with material found in the possession of a suspect. Traces of tobacco were also found on the clothing of the corpse, which were similarly identified.

Another interesting case relates to the geological examination of mud as a proof of the locality of a suspect at a given time. The accused had declared that he had been in the neighbourhood of the Herzberg at the time of the commission of a crime and not on the heights of Rockenhausen. The examination of the mud on his boots proved

conclusively that he had, in fact, been in the Rockenhausen neighbourhood. This is the manner in which, with characteristic thoroughness, the Germans correlate the work of the laboratory and that of the field. They are accustomed also to apply the test of practice in even more direct ways. An example of this was the extraordinary case of the murder in Mercedes Cinema at Neukoelln, Berlin, in January, 1931. The manager of the cinema was shot in his office behind the wings while counting the day's takings and making up the books; and this while the cinema was full of people and the performance in progress.

We have space here only to describe one incident concerning the investigation. It was one of those things of which the general public never heard, but it was vital to the chain of carefully accumulated evidence. During the performance, a man, afterwards proved to be the culprit, had been seen to walk down the gangway in the direction of the entrance to the wings. An exact description of what he wore was urgently required. There was a conflict of evidence. The organist seated at his instrument near the stage declared that he wore a black or very dark overcoat; a cinema attendant was equally certain that the coat was green.

By means of an experiment staged by Inspector Müller, it was proved that both were right! The body of the auditorium was, of course, normally lit, but at the time of the incident, coloured lights in which red predominated were playing on the stage and screen. The conditions were exactly reproduced, and a man dressed in a green overcoat walked down the gangway as on the night of the crime. While in the auditorium his coat looked green, it turned black as he approached the stage. The police had taken the opinion of one of their experts in optics who had suggested that the conflict in evidence might be due to an optical effect. On the theory that seeing is believing the suggestion was put to the test of actual experiment. This disposes of the charge sometimes made against the German police that they are interested in laboratory methods merely for their own sake, and that they make a fetish of them.

But the German police sometimes fail owing to the over-elaborate nature and lack of elasticity of their organisation. That strange sexual criminal with his lust for murder, Peter Kürten, terrorised the town of Düsseldorf for ten months. He committed at least eleven murders before he was brought to book. The investigators, circumscribed by their rigidly organised methods so successful with the typical crime, failed in this case to see the wood for the trees. A chance piece of information at last put them on the right track. But science played its part even in this inquiry. Dr. Schneickert, an eminent expert in the identification of handwriting, made a psychological diagnosis of the anonymous "murder notes" which told the police to what kind of psychological type the criminal belonged.

When the German police fail, it is not for lack of taking pains, or, as we have seen, for lack of organisation. This thoroughness makes up for a certain inability immediately to grasp the essentials which is more commonly found among the Latin races.

Books of The Day

WAR TANKS' CONTROVERSY

WE have been celebrating this week the twenty-first anniversary of the tank's first appearance on the scenes as a mighty engine of war. It was on September 15, 1916, that a small fleet of tanks was launched from the British side against the Germans and proved its efficacy by smashing up the Flers Line on the Somme front and creating something like panic in German Headquarters. The "surprise" might perhaps have been better stage-managed, but the extent of it at any rate sufficed to convince even the most sceptical of military critics that the tank was going to have an immense influence in all future warfare. And from the British point of view it was exceedingly gratifying that we were undoubtedly first in the field with the employment of this most effective war weapon. When, however, it comes to considering what individual or group of individuals could put forward the best claims to fathering this highly important invention, we are up at once against one of the war's greatest controversies.

The number of claimants to the honour of invention was at one time exceedingly large, and even the Royal Commission on Awards to war inventors had seriously to consider the claims of no less than eleven individuals, after duly recording a tribute of appreciation to a twelfth, Mr. Winston Churchill, who felt he was not entitled to be rewarded for services that properly belonged to the State. Sir William Tritton and Major Wilson were awarded by the Commission jointly £15,000, Major-General Swinton and Sir E. Tennyson D'Eyncourt got £1,000 each and Messrs. Macfie and Nesfield £500 each. In their report the Commission fully recognised that Commodore (now Rear-Admiral Sir Murray) Sueter "contributed in a definite degree to the evolution and adoption of the Tanks. He appreciated at an early date and urged on Mr. Winston Churchill the importance of caterpillar traction for attack across country; he organised the Diplock trials in February, 1915, and he was the main cause of the appointment of the D.N.C. Committee in the same month. We think that his services were of great value." But, said the Commission, as this officer was "acting throughout within the scope of the duties assigned to him," no award could properly be made to him; and for similar reasons the claims of Lieut-Colonel Boothby and Major Hetherington were also dismissed.

In view of the Commission's fairly generous treatment of the claims of General Swinton and Sir Eustace Tennyson D'Eyncourt, it does appear that their dismissal of these other claims was somewhat invidious, not to say churlish. Admiral Sueter puts forward his own case very forcibly in his book "The Evolution of the Tank: A Record of Royal Naval Air Service Caterpillar Experiments" (with 61 illustrations, Hutchinson, 12s. 6d.), when he says: "The Royal Commission state I was acting within the duties assigned to me. In the name of commonsense how can an

Officer be directed to attempt or invent a weapon of war, as part of his duty, when Authority, in the person of Mr. Churchill, then First Lord, did not know what was required? . . . Certainly none of the Admirals who were then Sea Lords knew. They made no creative suggestions. . . . Most of the Sea Lords, at that time, considered the Navy should have nothing to do with armoured cars or caterpillar landships. Certainly the Generals at the War Office had no idea in which path the development of a weapon for trench warfare should proceed, as they turned down all caterpillar proposals that had been put forward officially to them by Hankey, Tulloch and Swinton. There is nothing in the printed document outlining my duties as Director of the Admiralty Air Department—before me—to say I had to attempt to invent a caterpillar landship for the Army. . . . My complaint is that the Admiralty were not helpful to their Naval Airmen whilst the Royal Commission enquired into the claims for the Tank invention. I am quite confident the Chairman of the Royal Commission was never shown a copy of my orders as Director of their Air Department and they gave no guidance to the Chairman which was most unfair."

According to the account given by Admiral Sueter, Mr. Churchill's part in the discovery of the Tank was a "steam-roller" suggestion for crushing in the enemy's trenches! That was in January, 1915, and a month later came what the Admiral contends was the first of six practical steps in the final evolution of the Tank. This was his demonstration on Horse Guards Parade with a caterpillar machine "showing how a caterpillar could be fitted to our turret and three-pounder armoured cars." The second stage was a Diplock Caterpillar drawing submitted by him to the Admiralty Landship Committee on March 4, 1915; the third a demonstration by him with caterpillar machines at Wormwood Scrubs before Mr. Lloyd George; and the fourth the order placed by the Admiralty on July 29, 1915, for the first Royal Naval Air Service Landship to be built on special lengthened Bullock tracks obtained in America. The fifth step was the Tritton-Wilson Rhomboidal type of caterpillar landship and the sixth and last the construction of the Whippet Tank "which reverted to the original type of Royal Naval Air Service Caterpillar landship."

The story of the evolution of the Tank as the Admiral sets it out begins with efforts to improve and strengthen the Naval Service Armoured Cars, both as regards their weapons and their armour plating. It was from these efforts, he contends, that the idea of the Tank first took shape. It is a piquant story as the Admiral tells it—of red tape obstruction, of sectional and individual jealousies, of interference by reactionary "Noahs," naval and military, and of the perhaps inevitable wartime confusion in aims and orders. Perhaps it was not the least of the war's many anomalies that a Director of the Royal Naval Air Service should be so long busily engaged in the work of creating a new weapon of offence for the sole use of the Army. From his book one gathers that the Admiral seems to have found his position at times

rather peculiar, but that did not stop him from throwing all his energies into the task that had rather strangely fallen to his lot. And whether one accepts or not without qualification all the claims that he makes for himself and his little band of Naval Air and Armoured Car Officers for "initiating such a novel weapon of war" as the Tank, his book is a valuable and interesting contribution to the literature on this controversial topic.

AFRICA TO CHINA

The zealous traveller may tell us much that is worth recording about the countries he visits, but for glimpses into the inner life of the indigenous inhabitants of certain portions of the earth's surface one must needs go to those who have lived there and spent years studying the manners, customs, ideas and characters of the people around them. This is the case with the East and the whole vast continent of Africa. Mr. Frank Brownlee obviously knows and understands his African and this knowledge and understanding come from a long and sympathetic study of the people among whom he has worked. His African tales, published under the title "Corporal Wanzi" (Allen and Unwin, 7s. 6d.), are delightful little cameos of African life founded on fact. The Corporal himself is of the type familiar to many a white master in Africa: loyal and courageous, ever ready to look after his master's interests and belongings, yet extraordinarily outspoken, garrulous and boastful. Then there is the African's reactions to the law which the white men have imposed upon him and the value of which he can but dimly comprehend. Sometimes the "evidence" which the white judge may regard as all-important may even result in a serious miscarriage of justice as in the moving story of Mayengi, innocent of the murder for which he has been condemned to death, yet fully aware that the knowledge he has acquired through his magic of the real murderer is useless to him, since "how could these white men understand and believe what I was able to tell them?"

China at the moment is the scene of a war that is officially no war but is nonetheless creating tremendous havoc. And its old imperial capital Peking or Peiping as it is now called is the centre of the invaders' northern enveloping armies. It was in its neighbourhood that occurred some two months ago the trivial and rather obscure incident that first provoked Japanese indignation against China. How long this war is to continue there is no means of predicting with any certainty. Nor can one say what all its consequences may be either for China or Japan. But from the sorry picture that China now presents of fierce fighting and destruction it is pleasant to turn to the China of yesterday which Signor Varé depicts for us with such rare charm of language, with sympathetic understanding and delicate humour first in "The Maker of Heavenly Trousers" and now in its successor "The Gate of Happy Sparrows" (Methuen, 7s. 6d.). This collection of stories or sketches, as the author prefers to describe them, is, as he says, of "a China that is passing away: ghosts of old Peking when it was still the capital

of a great country, stretching from northern steppes to tropical jungles, and from Tibetan highlands to the sea." The author had made his home in an old temple and from the stables where he kept his four horses there was a gate leading on to a waste plot of ground which the sparrows used for dust baths in the winter and for bathing in the summer after the rainy season. Hence the name of the gate which has given the title to his book. Through the Gate of the Happy Sparrows Signor Varé now conducts his readers into the world outside his home. The same characters as appeared in "The Maker of Heavenly Trousers" make their reappearance in these new sketches and we are also given extracts from the diary of his Italian wife, Kuniang, so that the new book is in a sense a sequel to the earlier one, though it carries one beyond the threshold of the author's home and introduces us to many other characters. And as in the earlier book, so in this it is difficult to resist the enchantment of the author's leisurely, cultured style.

HEROES OF THE SEA

Few men know more about Suffolk, its people, its folklore, and its coast than Major Ernest Read Cooper, the author of a number of books dealing with a county with which he has had a long hereditary association. And it was a happy thought which induced him to collect a series of articles he had written to the *East Anglian Daily Times* on the subject of Suffolk's sea heroes, to add to them and to bring out a book entitled "Storm Warriors of the Suffolk Coast" (Heath

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Cranton, 3s. 6d.). Herein we have tales of gallant old sea dogs who constantly and cheerfully risked their own lives in setting out to rescue the crews of vessels shipwrecked on the dangerous sandy shoals lying off the Suffolk coast. And the tales are told by an author who has had a lifeboat experience of his own extending over forty years. The book is published at the special request of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and its Secretary contributes a foreword in which he re-echoes the author's sentiment that " everything is changed but the spirit of the men " who still carry on the work of rescue at sea. Major Cooper tells us that no less than seventy-nine medals for gallantry in saving life from shipwreck have been awarded to Suffolk men and he quotes with justifiable pride the Lifeboat Institution's tribute to the county : " No county round the 5,000 miles of coastline of the British Isles has a finer record of gallantry in rescuing life from shipwreck than Suffolk. Its lifeboats have rescued no fewer than 2,850 lives." At the end of his book he adds an eloquent plea for public assistance to the fishing industry. " When," he says, " the longshore men are all in the churchyard, who will man our lifeboats ? So before it is too late please to remember the British fisherman and buy his catch instead of so much foreign food. . . . If only our people will all haul together we may save the longshore fisherman yet."

• WHITE ANT'S SUPERIORITY TO MAN

In a fascinating book " Man and the Termite " (Peter Davies, 8s. 6d.) Mr. Herbert Noyes paints us a glowing picture of Termite civilisation which he would have us believe is in some respects better than and in others at least equal to our own. The Termite or White Ant is, he also assures us, a far older creation than man—by some millions of years in fact. This insect which man in certain parts of the earth regards as an unmitigated nuisance and which even Mr. Noyes admits does incalculable damage to timber, is, he firmly believes, directed in all its operations by a Master Intelligence. That is the only explanation he can give for the extreme sagacity of its own actions and for its prompt response to all and every emergency. The Termites may have kings but these, like other Termites, have no powers of transmitting orders, and instinct, Mr. Noyes holds, would not suffice to compel the workers, soldiers and other inhabitants of these underground cities to undertake all the multifarious and complicated tasks they so efficiently perform. The Termites, one gathers from Mr. Noyes, have little to learn from man in the way of building, architecture and engineering. They have their own devices for central heating; they have no need of a Hore-Belisha to teach them traffic control. For their nymphs, Kings and Queens they cultivate underground mushroom gardens and their chemists have discovered the secret of extracting nitrogen from the air. Finally, they have no unemployment and no disorders. The Termite's plan of life is settled for him at birth and there are no grievances. Every Termite falls into the rank allotted to him by an inscrutable Fate. The good of the community is the be-all and end-all of the Termite's

existence. For that good every Termite is prepared without demur to make every sacrifice, even that of his life.

NEW NOVELS

" Under the Sun " (Ernest Benn), by Herbert G. de Lisser, is an entertaining Jamaica comedy by an author who has lived in the island. The plot revolves round the manoeuvres of a beautiful but somewhat unscrupulous Englishwoman to better her social position. The main obstacle to her ambition lies in her marriage, but that is finally removed by resort to the Divorce Court.

Mr. E. Charles Vivian re-introduces his Inspector Head and the " Super " who is always talking of retiring and never shows any signs of throwing up his job into his new murder mystery, " .38 Automatic " (Ward, Lock). A number of people in turn come under suspicion and have to have their pasts investigated before the mystery is resolved. Mr. Vivian knows his business and lays his plot well, so his popular Inspector is kept busily employed in tracking down all sorts of clues for the greater excitement and enjoyment of his admirers.

Mr. Charles Rushton's new thriller " Murder in Bavaria " (Herbert Jenkins) plunges an elderly and portly English solicitor into an extraordinary series of adventures while on holiday in the Bavarian Alps. For the greater part of the book he is floundering about in what the publishers' blurb truly calls " a web of the densest intrigue." The reader, too, is in much the same predicament since the author is more intent on increasing the complications of his plot than on explaining them till he is ready for his final disclosures. It is a good tale, but some may think it would have been better for a little less complication.

PUBLISHERS' PLANS

Of the memoirs promised this autumn not the least interesting should be Mr. Hector Bolitho's " King George VI : A Character Study." This will be published by Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode.

The Medici Society hope to issue in the near future a centenary edition of Leslie's " Memoirs of the Life of John Constable " edited and revised throughout by Mr. Andrew Shirley.

Harrap's autumn publications will include " Outlines of the History of the British Isles," by Professor F. J. C. Hearnshaw.

Among the Cambridge University Press announcements appears the notice of a new book by Sir James Jeans entitled " Science and Music."

Early in October Hodder & Stoughton will publish a book on Russia by Miss Eileen Bigland. This will be called " Laughing Odyssey."

At the end of this month there will be coming from Longmans " The Road to the North : South Africa, 1852-1886," by Mr. J. A. I. Agar-Hamilton, Lecturer in History at the University of Pretoria.

On October 1, Macmillan are to publish a book on China by a young New Zealander, Mr. James M. Bertram, who has recently been investigating conditions in that country. This is called " Crisis in China," and sets out the inner story of the kidnapping of General Chiang Kai-shek, by Marshal Chang Husueh-liang, as well as the author's views on the present situation in China.

Round the Empire

COMMONWEALTH'S DWINDLING POPULATION

THE menace of depopulation is already receiving considerable attention from economists and other scientific writers in the Australian Commonwealth. Some interesting calculations were recently made by Mr. S. H. Wolstenholme, Economic Research Fellow of the University of Sydney. These calculations were based on three possibilities of future development. The first assumption was that no further migration would take place, and that natality and mortality would remain at the 1932-34 level; in this case, Mr. Wolstenholme calculated, the Australian population would reach a maximum of 7,875,000 in 1977, and would begin to decline absolutely after that year. The second assumption was that a further decline in the birth rate, about half of that experienced during the years 1925 to 1930, would take place; in that case the Australian population would reach a maximum of 7,420,000 in 1957, soon to be followed by a somewhat rapid decline. The third assumption was that, beginning in 1938, immigration of the same volume as that which marked the peak pre-depression years would be continuously maintained (about 40,000 immigrants a year). Such a stream of immigrants, Mr. Wolstenholme held, would only temporarily counteract the effects of the declining birthrate allowed in the second assumption. The evil day, when absolute decline would set in, would be postponed until 1981, when a maximum population of 8,940,000 would be reached, to be followed by a decline.

In drawing attention to these calculations in the *Australasian* Professor A. Lodewyckx pointed out that Australia's next door neighbour Java with an area little more than half of the State of Victoria, had a population of only 6,000,000 in 1824, and had since increased it to more than 42,000,000, while at the same time greatly improving its standard of living. He then went on to say:—"Opinions about the carrying capacity of Australia vary greatly; but I think no sound economist will deny that our population can be doubled or trebled without in the least impairing our standard of living. That being so, the most elementary prudence should induce us to see to it that this increase takes place as soon as possible. Artificial restrictions, the British Navy, and our Air Force may uphold the White Australia policy for a few years; but such an unnatural state of affairs cannot be maintained indefinitely and the White Australia policy is doomed to break down sooner or later unless we make Australia really white by effective occupation by white people. There are those who believe that the decline in birth rate is due to the economic depression. A superficial examination of the statistics proves that this view is wrong. It is precisely among the populations with the highest material standard of living that the birth rate has fallen most rapidly, and careful investigations made in some of the largest cities of Europe proved

that 1,000 women in the poorest quarters brought forth more than twice as many children as 1,000 women of the wealthy class.

"The conclusion is clear. The wealthier a nation or a family becomes, and the higher the material standard of living, the greater the tendency to reduce the number of children. The greater the comfort in which people are living the greater the demands they make on life. No sooner is one pressing need satisfied than another more pressing makes itself felt. But this continual chase after an always higher material standard of living is based upon an illusion; the welfare of the coming generation and the future of the race are sacrificed to immediate selfish ends. If not checked this course will lead to our downfall. A completely new outlook is required, and everybody should be made to recognise that periods of rapid increase in population have generally been associated with improvements in living conditions, whereas lower birth rates and dwindling populations have been forerunners of national decay and disaster."

OVER-TAXED AUSTRALIA

"There is a halt in public investment from outside Australia," said Dr. Page at a Melbourne conference of Country-party politicians. The *Sydney Bulletin*, in a caustic commentary on this observation by Dr. Page, remarks that "there is a halt in private investment also, and there is a very decided halt in immigration except of Southern Europeans. Does the doctor ever halt long enough to explore the reasons?" The *Bulletin* finds these reasons in the multitude of taxes imposed by the

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Episodes of the Month

The Rome Berlin Axis

Ottawa, World Trade and British Agriculture

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Kenya By Lieut.-Col. the LORD FRANCIS SCOTT, D.S.O.

General Hertzog's Impatience By V. A. BARBER

The Report on Unemployment Assistance

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The Mod By Mrs. CECIL HEADLAM

Poem: Civilians—and Soldiers By HAROLD P. COOKE

Scottish Notes By THEAGES

Sport By F. G.

A Rain Guide for the British Islands

Correspondence: By the LORD DUNBOYNE

Sir Alison Russell, Mrs. Saker, G. C. Neville,

H. H. Charnock.

Books New and Old:

The Bursting of a Bubble

By the Hon. LADY MAXSE

Postage (Book Post). 2d. (Canada). 1½d. PRICE 2s. 6d.

PUBLISHED BY THE PROPRIETORS AT

35, Wellington Street, Strand, London, W.C.2

seven Australian Governments. Their income taxes are, it says, not only oppressive but uncertain, being obscured by the cloudy jargon in which taxation laws are expressed, by the masses of regulations which seven departments issue at their own sweet will, by arbitrary assessments in the case of concerns trading in more than one State, by delays in the preparation of Budgets, which have never in the history of Federated Australia been introduced in the same month, and by doubts as to what this or that Treasurer will choose to extort.

"As a rule," goes on the *Bulletin*, "the British businessman knows in the first month of the financial year how much income tax he will have to pay. The Australian businessman never knows until the financial year is far advanced, and he is never sure about the amount until all his assessment papers arrive. The Briton has one return to make, and it is comparatively simple. The Australian who draws income from two States has to prepare and post three complex returns. One goes to an office in the State of which he is a resident, a second to an office in the State from which part of the income is drawn, and the third to the central Commonwealth office, which is in Melbourne. If a taxpayer has interests in six States, seven returns will be required. If he has had sickness in the family and claims medical expenses as deductions from taxable income, separate stamped receipts may be demanded, the alternative being refusal of the claim."

"In the preparation and examination of unnecessary returns, a vast amount of time is lost and unnecessary expenditure incurred. Often a puzzled taxpayer has to call in a taxation agent—generally a former taxgatherer—and that means an addition to the plague of taxes. As to that, the Commonwealth taxes up to 5s. 8.85d. in the £ of personal earnings and 6s. 9d. in the £ of property income. N. S. Wales grabs as much as 4s. 3d. in the £. The Victorian impost reaches 1s. 8d. in the £, *plus* 7½ per cent., with "additional tax" of 10 per cent. to 25 per cent. on incomes exceeding £800. Maximum rates in other States are 3s. 2.4d. in the £ in Westralia, 5s. in Queensland, *plus* 20 per cent. super-tax, 5s. in Tasmania and 5s. 1d. in South Australia. The foregoing are 'ordinary' taxes on incomes of individuals. There are, in addition, in all the States except South Australia, income taxes called 'special,' 'financial emergency' or 'unemployed-relief,' levied on individuals and companies alike. They go to 10d. in the £ in N. S. Wales, 11d. in Queensland and 1s. in Westralia and Tasmania; Victoria charges 20s. 7d. to 90s. 7d. per £100 as income steps up. 'Ordinary' taxes on companies are 1s. in the £ in the Commonwealth, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 3d. in N. S. Wales, 1s. to 1s. 10.575d. in Victoria, 1s. 9d. to 7s. 3d. in Queensland, 2s. in S.A., 1s. 3d., *plus* 15 per cent., to 2s. 7d. in W.A. and 1s. 6d. in Tasmania.

"Including levies for hospitals in Westralia and the Federal Capital Territory, Australia has *fourteen* income taxes. While this chaos of imposts exists it cannot hope to get much private capital or skilled labour from Britain, greatly as it needs both; nor will veterans of the British Army,

the Royal Navy and the colonial services come to the country to be bled white when the British Government leaves their modest incomes alone. Neither will Australian industry flourish as it should. With the return of unemployment to normal, there is no warrant for the continued infliction of the State taxes alleged to be for unemployed-relief. The 'ordinary' State taxes have also had their day. One Commonwealth tax would suffice for all legitimate expenditure now charged up to income tax, including Government schooling, of which the State Governments have made an inglorious mess. A party or group or candidate coming out for one income tax, with Commonwealth control of education, would command the enthusiastic support of people who have had enough of filling in superfluous forms and of being taxed up to the eyes, partly on what has already been extorted by the First or Second Robber."

AIR PROGRESS

Capt. L. J. Brain, Flight-Superintendent of Qantas Empire Airways, and two other Qantas pilots, Captains W. H. Crowther and C. R. Gurney, have been in England mastering flying-boat technique with a view to the operation of big aircraft of the "C" Class through to Australia. These three pilots have now completed their marine air course, and arrangements have been made for other "Qantas" pilots to come to England for similar training. Captain Brain, whose log-books show that he has now flown over 1,000,000 miles, spoke with admiration of the new Empire flying-boats, not only as regards passenger comfort, but also from the viewpoint of a pilot sitting at his controls. Apart from any question of size they are, he said, the most pleasant machines to fly he has ever handled. He added that he felt certain that these aircraft when they are in service right through to Australia, will prove extremely popular with long-distance air travellers. Aerial passenger, mail and freight services are, he pointed out, solving transport problems in Australia in a way that would be impossible by any other means. Immense time-savings can be effected, as compared with surface travel, when loads are earmarked in Australia for the flying routes. It is wonderful work that is being done, on an ever-growing scale, by the medical air services of Australia, while among plans now energetically in hand are those for increasing air-freight facilities between rail-heads and distant settlements and stations. Australia is also busy with schemes for aerodrome development and improvement, and is, in addition, preparing for a widespread system of night-flying with mails.

An extremely interesting exploration flight of 5,000 miles to the remote Petermann Ranges in Central Australia was accomplished recently by a party of Queensland business men. Their purpose was to explore remote and inaccessible desert territory with a view to its possible exploitation for gold-mining. The prospectors were flown in a Qantas Empire Airways' plane to a point in the Ranges which afforded the nearest approach by air to the region to be surveyed and after this the party went on by camel team. The aeroplane was employed

to keep in daily touch with the camel team, and to drop additional food supplies as required. Actually the party were absent from Brisbane, their starting point, for a period of just over 30 days, during which 5,195 miles were flown. Only six days were needed to fly to and from the Petermann Ranges. By surface transport such journeys would have occupied many weeks.

Long-distance flights by people in a hurry to reach some distant outpost of the Empire are becoming increasingly popular. Recently two London travellers were in a hurry to reach Hong Kong. Flying from Southampton to Alexandria by one of the scheduled flying-boat services, they arranged to be picked up at Alexandria by an air-special and flown immediately to Hong Kong. In two days they had covered the stages from Southampton to Alexandria, and in another six days had reached Hong Kong—the total distance of their voyage, by flying-boat and air special, being about 7,000 miles.

At the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto Imperial Airways have an exhibit which is based on the story of the Empire flying-boats. One of the attractions is a model wind-tunnel in which visitors can test for themselves the reactions of a model Empire flying-boat. Another model is of a testing-tank in which members of the public can test the hull of an Empire flying-boat in water. A model of an Empire flying-boat, to a scale of one inch to a foot, is also a feature of the stand, on which, in addition, are to be seen a model Empire airport, and special maps of Imperial Airways routes.

The new Empire Air Mail Service is being completed in three stages. The first is the Service to Cape Town which is already in operation. The next stage is the Service to Calcutta and finally, the "All Up Stage" to Australia.

When the Calcutta stage of the new Mail Service is inaugurated in January next Ceylon will be linked with the scheme at Karachi by the Indian International Service. The question has recently been under consideration between the Ceylon, the Indian and the British authorities as to how much each party should contribute to this service. According to the *Ceylon Daily News* the ultimate payments to be made by the Ceylon Government will be an annual subsidy of £5,000 to the Imperial Airways and a mail payment of £11,500 per annum, both amounting to Rs. 2,20,000. At the same time Ceylon will be paying Rs. 4,50,000 a year to the Indian International Mail Service run by Messrs. Tata Sons and Co. for carrying Ceylon's air mails between Karachi and Colombo and in respect of this payment the British Post Office proposes to pay the Ceylon Government a subsidy of Rs. 2.20 per pound.

At the time the last mail left Colombo the agreement between the Ceylon Government and the Indian Government in respect of Ceylon's Service between Karachi and Colombo had not been signed and negotiations were proceeding between the Ceylon Ministry of Communications and Works and Messrs. Tatas for the inclusion of certain terms in the agreement regarding facilities for the training of Ceylonese as air pilots.

SOUTH AFRICAN PROTECTORATES

The South African Protectorates question was the subject of a recent speech by Colonel Deneys Reitz, Union Minister of Agriculture. In this he referred to a statement by Mr. Malcolm MacDonald to the effect that the natives had to be consulted. He did not, he said, quite know what Mr. MacDonald meant. He (Col. Reitz) did not know of any European country—Britain, France or any other which had consulted the natives they administered. If Mr. MacDonald was suggesting a sort of referendum of the natives in the protectorate, he (Col. Reitz) would suggest that the referendum be so held as to enable the natives to state whether, first, they wished to be under the Union Government; second whether they wished to be ruled by the Colonial Office; or, third, whether they would rather rule themselves. And from what he knew of the Protectorate natives he imagined they would say, "A plague on both your houses, we want to govern ourselves." Colonel Reitz said he did not see how many of the Bechuanas, who still lived primitive lives in the desert, hunting with bow and arrows, could come to vote for a decision.

The Union, he went on, was governing more natives than any other country, with the exception of Nigeria. The whole of the mighty Zulu nation, and many others were administered by the Union, and were justly treated. Practically half of Bechuanaland—the southern half—was in the Union, and he was certain that southern Bechuanaland was better developed than was northern Bechuanaland under the "dead hand" of the Dominions Office. "Our administration of the natives," Colonel Reitz declared, "is as good as, and probably on sounder lines than any other. We have generations of experience and could tell those well-meaning people in the Union and Britain that our administration compares favourably with the rule of any other African territory." Colonel Reitz recalled that in the South African War the Dutch had gone into the field leaving their wives, children and effects in the care of their natives, and that trust was never abused. If they had handled their natives badly that would not have happened. It had been said in England that they had taken away the native vote. That was true, but their attitude to the natives was a friendly one. The British Government had been just to the natives, but nowhere in Africa had the British given the natives the vote.

Colonel Reitz added: "We should all try to co-operate in making that section of the British people and the Dominions Office understand that we are not hard and that they will not be handing over the Protectorates to wolves, but to people quite fit to administer them kindly." The Government was not going to be driven into hostility against England. He felt that they would have no difficulty in getting the British Government to feel that they could transfer the Protectorates with confidence.

SOUTH AFRICAN WHALING

The latest mail from South Africa brings the news that the Union Government at the last

moment decided not to ratify the International Whaling Convention signed in London in June. Its representative at the London Conference had provisionally signed the Convention and when this fact had been announced in South Africa there was a considerable outcry from the whaling interests affected. Mr. A. S. Garden, managing director of a Cape Company concerned with whaling, in an interview with the *Cape Times*, expressed his gratification at the Government's decision. But, he said, "although the immediate danger is averted we are far from feeling secure. The fact that the Central Government has interfered in a matter which has for long years been under the control of the Provinces concerned, means that it can do so again, and maybe with equally disastrous results. It should be understood that whaling is a business that cannot be arranged for from month to month; it requires long-range planning from season to season. We were not consulted in regard to the signing of this convention and we cannot be sure what steps may be taken in the future without our knowledge in matters in which we are vitally interested."

Mr. Garden said that an Act passed during the last session of Parliament had placed the control of foreshores in the hands of the Department of Lands, whereas it had until then been controlled in the Cape by the Cape Provincial Administration. How this was going to affect whaling interests was not yet clear. "Long before Union, the old Cape Parliament granted my firm its whaling rights, and, at the time, stated that, other than to us, no further whaling licences would be granted. But since Union, apparently this obligation has been forgotten. We have two land stations, one at Saldanha and the other at Hangklip. Because we removed some whaling plant from Hangklip to Saldanha our licence at Hangklip was cancelled. We had no intention at the time of removing altogether from Hangklip and had, in fact, spent a good deal of money on the foreshore. Recently we were asked whether we wished to renew our option on the whaling rights for another five years, and the question arises what the position will be under the new foreshore control. Unless we can depend upon the unrestricted use of the foreshore the whaling rights will be of little use to us. That is why I say that the future is obscure. Our gratification will be more complete when the Government takes us into its confidence."

AFRICAN TOURIST CONGRESS

An African section of the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme is to be formed as a result of a resolution passed by the conference of the Alliance held in Bulawayo recently. The conference also decided to institute a committee which will include representatives of touring organisations of the Union, the Rhodesias, the Belgian Congo, British East Africa, Nyasaland, Angola and Mozambique, as well as representatives of the Governments concerned, to meet annually to develop tourist relations between the countries. Mr. H. J. Crocker, President of the Automobile Association of South Africa, informed the conference that the National Travel Association would be in operation in the

Union by the beginning of 1938, and would take over from the South African Railways and Harbours the administration of tourism as far as overseas countries were concerned. It was expected that £80,000 to £100,000 a year would be devoted to it. Further resolutions gave recognition to the international customs cartel in Angola, and to the international driving permit and certificate for motor vehicles in British East Africa. The conference was attended by delegates of most of the touring and motoring organisations of Southern Africa, and was presided over by Mr. T. A. E. Holdengarde, Deputy Mayor of Bulawayo. Two languages, English and French were used.

Opening the conference Mr. Huggins, the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, said that the Alliance last year approved the policy of decentralisation in India and Africa for the discussion of local problems. The present conference was pursuant to that policy and was preliminary to a more comprehensive conference to be held at Constermansville, in the Belgian Congo, in October, 1938. Bulawayo had been chosen as the present venue as the Southern Rhodesia key position regarding travel in Southern Africa. Southern Rhodesia's road policy fitted in with what the conference had in mind. They were endeavouring to make trunk roads comfortable and trafficable, and hoped shortly to have a good road between Bulawayo and the Victoria Falls, while the bridge over the Zambezi at Chirundu on the direct route from Salisbury to Lusaka would, when completed, give an alternative route to the Falls. He hoped the road from Salisbury to Lusaka would be built through the Fakue Gorge despite the expense.

AFRICA'S FASTEST TRAIN

Stimulated by the accounts given in the London Press of the fast speeds set up by L.M.S. and L.N.E.R. express trains between London and Scotland the *Cape Times* feels that the praises of the South African Railways "Limited" Express deserve also to be sung. It begins by pointing out that "England and Scotland are not really mountainous as mountains go in other parts of the world." And then goes on to say that between Cape Town and Johannesburg the South African Railways "Limited" Express puts up a performance as remarkable as, though naturally not comparable in average speed to that of the two great English systems. The run is close on 1,000 miles; the rise or fall in altitude, according to the direction, is all but 6,000 feet; the gauge is narrow; the stops much more frequent than between London and Scotland; the track single almost all the way and the train run with a minimum of inconvenience to less rapid trains, passenger or goods. The S.A.R. "Limited" accomplishes this difficult journey at an average speed of almost 40 miles per hour—"everything considered, a feat certainly equal to and arguably more considerable than that of the two British trains. But such comparisons need not be insisted on; all that is in point here is to suggest to South Africans that their Government railways earn, in this great train, appreciation which is not invariably conceded to them. In the

railway hierarchy of super-trains of the world our 'Limited' deserves to stand very high indeed."

RHODESIAN COALFIELD

The Zambesi basin contains one of the largest, if not the largest, coalfields in the world, yet the Northern and Southern Rhodesias, up to the present, have boasted only one active coal mine. The Wankie Colliery, in Southern Rhodesia, is so vast and so easily worked that it has been able to supply all the calls upon it from the Rhodesias and the Belgian Congo. Its reserves are estimated at some 6,000,000,000 tons.

The monopoly so long enjoyed by the Wankie Colliery is now being challenged and a company has been formed to develop another rich area south of the Zambesi river. Arrangements have already been made for enlarging the railway siding at Invantue and extending the line to the pit head. This property and the Wankie Mine are in the north-west of the Colony. The coalfields in other parts of the Colony are still undeveloped. The Government favours the idea of competitive coal producers as this should lead to a reduction in the price of current supplied to mines, municipalities and other undertakings, under the Electrical Supply Commission.

ON THE SIDE OF ORDER

The views of politicians all the world over are apt to change when their party comes into power. Actions and attitudes that have met with their sternest disapproval when in opposition tend to wear an entirely different appearance when viewed from the standpoint of responsible authority. Thus it will surprise no one that the Indian Congress President, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, realises that Congressmen in office may have to take action on occasion that they have so often condemned.

Answering a question by an interviewer in Bombay recently whether it was right for Congress Ministers, who are pledged to non-violence, to allow the police to fire on strikers, the Congress President said that even a pacifist Government would have to resist armed foreign invasion and civil war by resort to force. There might arise occasions when the people, whether strikers or otherwise, might indulge in violence. "No Government could tolerate such violence because it had dangerous potentialities."

WAS THE GOVERNOR RIGHT?

The Calcutta *Statesman* mentions an interesting point in constitutional practice that has been raised by the Leader of the Opposition in the Bengal Legislative Assembly. It is this. The Assembly recently elected 27 men to sit in the Upper House, the Council-Voting was by the single transferable vote, about nine votes were enough to elect a candidate, and it may be assumed that the three Europeans among the 27 were elected mainly by the votes of the 25 Europeans in the Assembly. One of the three subsequently resigned, and for the vacancy it was notified that a European should be elected by the Europeans in the Assembly. It was

to the second part of the instruction that the Opposition Leader took exception. He thought it reasonable that in any casual vacancy among those 27 seats European should succeed European, Moslem Moslem, Hindu Hindu. But he protested that if only Europeans were permitted to vote for a "European vacancy" and not the whole House, the rights and privileges of the Assembly as a whole and so of every member of it were diminished. The House, not any section of it, was the constituency under the Government of India Act, and it was the duty of the House, and its Speaker, to protect and maintain its rights and privileges. That point of view he put before the Speaker for his ruling.

This was a hard nut for a new Speaker to crack in his first week in the Chair. He reserved his ruling, thought it out, and delivered it a day or two later. Announcing that it was his duty and would be his interest to defend the House against encroachment on or diminution of its rights, he decided that the question put to him was outside his province. As Speaker, he could pass no opinion on what was done by others elsewhere when the House as a House of Legislature was not affected.

The *Statesman* considers the ruling sound. It believes that the Governor in this particular instance decided in virtue of his residual duties under the Act that Council vacancies should be filled by sectional election in this way. The procedure had the merit of convenience but the *Statesman* doubts whether there was anything in the Governor's instructions to justify this action of his and it thinks that this question of principle may some day have to be answered.

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MACMILLAN

Letters to the Editor

THE NYON AGREEMENT

Sir,—The Government are to be complimented generally on the manner in which they have handled this Spanish piracy question. It was a wise step to avoid the obviously awkward venue of Geneva and it seems that Italy might well have been brought in to co-operate fully with France and Britain in putting down this piracy if it had not been for the unfortunate incursions of Soviet Russia.

That Power did its best to torpedo the conference from the very start by its truculent accusations against Italy, and its representative at the conference, M. Litvinoff, was clearly out to provoke Italian indignation still more by the speech he delivered at the close of the conference. He stressed what he calls the "fact" that the States taking part in the conference "belonged exclusively to the peace front," while "resisting the temptation to compare their scrupulousness with the method of 'non-intervention' practised by the States not represented here"!

Is it surprising that Italy, when invited by France and Britain to join in the anti-piracy measures in the Mediterranean, should find "unacceptable" the proposal that she should confine her operations to patrolling the Tyrrhenian Sea?

She not unnaturally sees in this "limiting" proposal yet another slight to herself—with the

object no doubt, as she sees it, of pleasing Soviet Russia, the ally of France and a Power whom Britain for some unaccountable reason is ever ready to propitiate.

It is to be hoped that Italian objections will be met. Otherwise the carrying out of the Nyon agreement may lead to regrettable consequences, among them the raising of further obstacles in the way of a renewal of our old friendship with Italy.

CHARLES HAMMOND.

Reading.

NATIONAL THEATRE PLAN

Sir,—I think the point made by a correspondent in your last issue on the National Theatre plan is an excellent one and disposes of any arguments there may be for the whole scheme.

It is, as he says, quite foreign to the British spirit to set up any kind of central authority in matters of language or taste. We have no use for an Academy of Letters because we prefer our language to develop in its own independent way. The B.B.C. may try to tell us how to pronounce our language correctly, but no one takes its efforts very seriously. The B.B.C. "intonation" has in fact become something of a joke to a large section of the listening-in-public. The Stage has no particular need of guidance. It has got along very well without a National Theatre up to date, and there is no earthly reason why it should put itself now into leading strings for the glory and satisfaction of the organisers of this "national" plan.

J. H. HEMINS.

Croydon.

DUST-BIN WASTAGE

Sir,—I was interested to read your editorial note on milk bottle wastage. What has struck me for a very long time is the enormous wastage there must be of fruit and meat tins regularly consigned to our dust bins by our house-wives. What happens to all these old tins? In Germany, I believe, they are not allowed to be wasted.

C. T. A.

Cambridge.

CAVE-DIGGERS

Sir,—Caverns, whatever may be the name of their exploration, might become a means of locating bodies of water below the surface where similar strata exist as those in which it is now held up by impermeable ones below, so that there are even subterranean rivers and pools like lakes in some caves.

Deserts once existed when the Mormons first arrived in what is now the State of Utah, with its chief town as Salt Lake City, which of itself stands as a monument to its great system of irrigation, while other salt lakes have only just been discovered by aeroplanes near Mount Condor in Australia, and possibly there will also be salt lake cities there, as where the carcass of salt water is, there may the eagles of fresh water be gathered together.

JOHN H. BURTON.

*Newtown Park,
Co. Dublin.*

VAT 69

LIQUEUR SCOTCH WHISKY

Your Investments

NO TIME TO SELL

IT is difficult when markets—like the times—are out of joint, to tender to investors advice which is likely quickly to be proved correct. But obviously, when Stock markets are occupied with the minimum of business which gives prices a false valuation and when in addition they are completely subservient to international political influences and to irresponsible reports and rumours from day to day, it is not the time for the investor to part with his securities if he can possibly help it. If his holding consists of gilt-edged or other fixed interest securities, there is always the consolation that others are likely in times of trouble to go more for such safety-first stocks than for ordinary stocks and shares. If, on the other hand, his holding is mainly in "equities," as ordinary stocks and shares are styled, then the investor should derive a crumb of comfort from the fact that prices are already down to such a low level and there is so little genuine selling that it cannot be long before some better news brings a sharp rise in the market. Actually, there is no very extensive "bear" position since the "bears" are afraid to operate; but markets are ripe for a rise should there be any more cheerful news.

ATTRACTS OF "AMERICANS"

International fears have hit New York as hard as they have the European markets and Wall-street prices have come tumbling down to levels well below the highest of the year. Now comes the news that £60,000,000 of the gold sterilised in the U.S. Treasury's vaults is to be used in the purchase of U.S. Government securities in the market to bolster up bond prices and maintain the "cheap money" policy. This step is of the greatest importance to investors in this country as well as in America, for it spells the beginning of the credit extension in the States on the basis of her vast gold reserves. This can only bring in the long run a rise in world commodity prices and a rise in prices in this country both of securities and commodities. The one thing that prevents a real "boom" on Wall-street is the fear that restrictions will be placed on speculation to such an extent as to offset any benefits of the "cheap money" policy. Wall-street is dependent upon purely speculative operations to a very much greater extent than is the London market. But eventually, Mr. Roosevelt will be unable to hold the inflationary forces he has set in motion and then prices may well soar to 1929 levels. In the meantime, International Nickel at 57, as against 70 earlier in the year, are quite attractive again and U.S. Steel must surely be worth very much more than 96—they have been up to nearly 130 this year. Among Rails and Utilities, New York Central at 29, against 55 earlier this year, offer scope for big capital profits as also do Consolidated Edison at 32. These prices are back to the levels existing when they were previously mentioned in these columns and no one can pretend that America

is not more prosperous now than she was a year ago.

BANK SHARES AS A "HEDGE"

Many investors who hesitate to make the difficult choice between fixed interest stocks for safety and ordinary stocks for capital appreciation may find a solution in a purchase of shares in the big British banks. Naturally, the shares are regarded as practically in the gilt-edged list and, largely as the result of the banks' large holdings of British Government stocks, Bank shares actually move in sympathy with price movements in the gilt-edged market. But the banks' chief business is that of providing accommodation for business and industry and a large total of advances to customers spells prosperity for the banks so that the influences of dearer money rates which would reflect adversely on British Government stocks would be offset in the case of the banks by the better income to be derived from the provision of genuine banking accommodation. Yields on Bank shares are not very greatly above those on actual gilt-edged securities the fully-paid shares giving only just over 3½ per cent. in most cases. Barclays Bank "B" shares at 74s., however, return 3¾ per cent. and the 10 per cent. maximum dividend shares at 10s. give over £3 16s. per cent. This is quite a high return for such an investment nowadays. Yields on the partly-paid shares, where the liability to be called upon to pay up fresh capital can hardly be regarded as serious, are now around the 4 per cent. level. Lloyds "A" shares at just over 60s. return practically 4 per cent. and National Provincial £20 shares, £4 paid, give over £4 2s. per cent. Westminster partly-paid at 90s. also return 4 per cent. and a similar return is available on Midland Bank £12 shares, £2 10s. paid, on which there is callable liability of £2 10s. per share. All these shares give some scope for capital appreciation, while offering the greatest possible safety outside British Government stocks themselves.

RUBBERS AND TEAS

It is natural that such speculative sections of the Stock Markets as those for Rubber and Tea plantation companies' shares should be very quiet when business is restricted by War scares and similar influences. Rubber has actually improved in price to over 9½d. per lb. and for the first eight months of this year the price averaged over 10½d. per lb. with a quota of 83½ per cent., as against a 62½ per cent. quota for last year when the price averaged 7½d. per lb. for the first eight months of the year, the autumn seeing a big rise to about 1s.

Anglo-Dutch at 38s. 6d. are likely to return more than the present yield of 4 per cent. when the results for the year are known. The same comment applies to Telogoredjo at 28s., while United Serdang at 4s. 6d. return nearly 5 per cent. on last year's dividend and a 5 per cent. interim has already been declared for this year. Of the Malay companies, Bukit Mertajam at 3s. 9d. are attractive, giving a reasonable return of well over 6 per cent. When normal Stock Market activity is resumed, Rubber shares should be among the first to benefit.

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